

1
2 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
3 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
4 -----x Case Nos.
5 In re 01-16034 (AJG)
6 ENRON CORP., et al, (03-03370)
7 Reorganized Debtors. New York, New York
8 -----x April 27, 2006
9 CORRECTED TRANSCRIPT
10 DIGITALLY RECORDED PROCEEDINGS
11 (E X C E R P T)

12 10:10 01-16034 ENRON CORP., et al
13 (03-03370) Enron Corp. v. International Finance CORP.,
14 et al
15 Amended Motion by Caisse de Depot et Placement du
16 Quebec to Dismiss Adversary Proceeding.
17 Motion by National Australia Bank to Dismiss.
18 Opposition filed.

19 B E F O R E:

20 THE HONORABLE ARTHUR J. GONZALEZ
21 United States Bankruptcy Judge

22 A P P E A R A N C E S:

23 TOGUT, SEGAL & SEGAL LLP
24 Co-Counsel for Reorganized Debtors
One Penn Plaza
25 New York, New York 10119

26 BY: HOWARD P. MAGALIFF, ESQ.
-and-
27 DANIEL F.X. GEOGHAN, ESQ.
28 (continued on page 2)

29 DEBORAH HUNTSMAN, Court Reporter
30 198 Broadway, Suite 903
31 New York, New York 10038
32 (212) 608-9053 (917) 723-9898
33 Proceedings Recorded by Electronic Sound Recording,
34 Transcript Produced by Court Reporter
35

1 A P P E A R A N C E S:2 PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON & GARRISON LLP
3 Attorneys for Caisse de Depot et Placement du
4 Quebec5 1285 Avenue of the Americas
6 New York, New York 10019-60647 BY: STEPHEN J. SHIMSHAK, ESQ.
8 -and-9 1615 L Street, N.W.
10 Washington, D.C. 20003

11 BY: CLAUDIA TOBLER, ESQ.

12 WILLIAMS & CONNOLLY LLP
13 Attorneys for National Australia Bank
14 725 Twelfth Street, N.W.
15 Washington, D.C. 2000516 BY: J. ANDREW KEYES, ESQ.
17 -and-
18 JOHN L. CUDDIHY, ESQ.

19 * * * *

20 (Whereupon, the following is an excerpt from
21 4/27/2006 in In re Enron Corp., et al, Case No.
22 01-16034.)23 JUDGE GONZALEZ: We will then proceed to the
24 matter that was scheduled for 10:10, and that is the
25 various motions to dismiss. One is an amended motion
 filed to dismiss the adversary proceeding, and the
 other is a motion by the National Australia Bank to
 dismiss.26 I am going to take a very brief recess. If you
27 haven't given your appearances, please do so. I will
28 return in a few minutes to hear the arguments.

3 JUDGE GONZALEZ: Please be seated.

4 Let's commence then with the argument on the
5 motion to dismiss.

6 MR. SHIMSHAK: Good morning, Your Honor.

7 Stephen Shimshak of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton &
8 Garrison. I appear this morning in support of the
9 motion of Caisse de Depot de Placement du Quebec to
10 dismiss the Second Cause of Action as to it in the
11 adversary proceeding of Enron Corp. v. International
12 Finance Corp., et al.

13 CDP, which is the denomination that I will use
14 to refer to the client, is an instrument of the
15 government of the Provence of Quebec created to manage
16 provincial pension funds. Your Honor, also moving to
17 dismiss on grounds identical to CDP is National
18 Australian Bank. Mr. Keyes of William & Connolly and
19 I discussed the procedure this morning, and we agreed
20 that I would proceed with the argument. Of course, he
21 has reserved his right to make any additional points
22 that he wishes. I would suggest that, if he has some
23 additional comments, they should follow mine and then,
24 of course, Mr. Magaliff can respond on behalf of
25 Enron.

1 Your Honor, this motion concerns the Second
2 Cause of Action in this adversary proceeding, and I
3 would like to outline for the Court's benefit the
4 elements of that cause of action and give some
5 background facts, all, of course, drawn from the
6 Complaint. For ease of discussion, I did prepare one
7 demonstrative, which I would like to provide to the
8 Court. It helps to follow the transaction.

9 JUDGE GONZALEZ: Thank you.

10 MR. SHIMSHAK: Your Honor, in essence the
11 Complaint concerns aspects of an Asset Securitization
12 Program, and that is laid out in the chart. As the
13 structure worked, ENA contributed so-called C_O assets
14 to a partnership, Holding I LP. An Enron entity
15 served as the general partnership of that partnership,
16 and the Complaint alleges the Trust on the left hand
17 side of the chart served as the limited partnership.
18 In consideration of its interest in the limited
19 partnership, proceeds of a note issuance by the Trust
20 flowed into the partnership and up to Enron, and then
21 the cash flowed from the assets which had been
22 contributed to the partnership was used to retire the
23 note obligations.

24 The Complaint alleges in paragraph 32 that in
25 September of 2000 Enron granted a Put Option to the

1 partnership Holding I LP enabling the partnership to
2 put the CLO assets to Enron up to an amount of \$113
3 million under circumstances that were specified in the
4 put. Count II further alleges that Holding 1 LP
5 exercised the Put Option, and on or about January 12,
6 2001, Enron paid \$63 million to Holding LP. It
7 further alleges that Holding I then transferred the
8 funds received in the January Put Payment to the CLO
9 Trust, and the Trust, in turn, transferred these funds
10 to the parties identified on Exhibit 3 to the
11 Complaint. Exhibit 3 contains a list of mediate
12 transferees, including CDP. It does not set forth the
13 amount that each transferee received, but my
14 understanding is that CDP received approximately \$11
15 million.

16 Enron alleges that the January Put Payment to
17 Holdings LLP constituted a fraudulent conveyance, and
18 that Enron may recover the fraudulent conveyance from
19 CDP and others identified solely as mediate
20 transferees under section 550(a)(2) of the Bankruptcy
21 Code. So the Second Cause of Action states a cause of
22 action under section 550(a)(2).

23 The parties are in agreement on what Enron did
24 not do in its Second Cause of Action and that is that
25 it did not sue and identify as a Defendant Holding I

1 LP, the party that Enron alleges received the
2 fraudulent transfer and it, thus, does not seek to
3 avoid as against Holding I LP, the fraudulent transfer
4 alleged in count II.

5 CDP and National have moved to dismiss the
6 Complaint based on the interplay between section 550,
7 548, and 546(a) of the Bankruptcy Code. Specifically,
8 CDP maintains that under section 550(a) of the
9 Bankruptcy Code, Enron cannot proceed on a 550(a)
10 recovery cause of action against CDP as a mediate
11 transferee without first avoiding the transfers to
12 Holding I LP.

13 We further maintain that though nothing
14 prevented Enron from proceeding against Holding I LP,
15 it cannot do so now due to the operation of section
16 546(a). The time to avoid to create avoidance actions
17 against Holding I LP expired on the second anniversary
18 of the filing of the case, December 2, 2003.

19 Finally, we will respond to an argument made in
20 Enron's reply in which it went outside the letter of
21 the Complaint and essentially asked this Court to take
22 judicial notice of the fact that Enron has caused the
23 dissolution of Holding I LP and that it no longer
24 exists. While CDP does not believe that the fact of
25 the dissolution proceeding should have any bearing on

1 its motion to dismiss, a review of the docket in this
2 case in public filings in Delaware makes clear that
3 the decision to proceed, as Enron did, was consciously
4 made and that Enron should bear the consequences of
5 that decision relating to the dissolution of Holding I
6 LP.

7 At the heart of this motion, Your Honor, lies
8 the issue of the construction and application of
9 section 550(a) of the Bankruptcy Code. That
10 provision, we maintain, is straightforward. It
11 states, except as otherwise provided in this section,
12 to the extent that a transfer is avoided under
13 sections 544, 545, 547, 548, 549, 553(b), or 724(a) of
14 this title, the Trustee may recover the property or
15 the value transferred from the initial transferee for
16 any immediate or mediate transferee.

17 As Colliers puts it in its explanation of
18 section 550, the Bankruptcy Code permits a trustee or
19 a debtor-in-possession after avoidance of a transfer
20 under the trustee's avoiding powers, to recover the
21 property transferred or the value of the property
22 transferred.

23 The legislative history of section 550(a) is
24 also informative. It begins, section 550 prescribes
25 the liability of a transferee of an avoided transfer

1 and announces the separation between the concepts of
2 avoiding a transfer and recovering from the
3 transferee. Subsection (a) permits the trustee to
4 recover from the initial transferee of an avoided
5 transfer -- note that word -- or from any immediate or
6 mediate transferee of the initial transferee.

7 The plain meaning of the statute makes clear
8 that avoidance must perceive the ability to recover
9 under section 550. Cases adopting this construction,
10 which I will discuss in a moment, point to another
11 feature of section 550 to bolster this conclusion and
12 that is subsection 550(f). That provision creates a
13 separate statute of limitations for the recovery of an
14 avoided transfer consistent with the notion of a
15 separation between avoidance and recovery. That
16 provision provides for a one-year statute of
17 limitation after the avoidance of the transfer for
18 which recovery is sought.

19 The briefs make clear that the caselaw on the
20 construction of 550(a) devise with no law squarely on
21 point in this jurisdiction. There are two circuit
22 level decisions. One is a decision of the Tenth
23 Circuit, the Slack-Horner Foundries decision, which
24 goes our way; and an Eleventh Circuit decision IBT
25 International, which goes Enron's way.

1 The decisions in our favor, and they are
2 identified in our brief, particularly Slack-Horner and
3 Trans-End Tech, treat this matter straightforwardly
4 finding in the plain meaning of the statute and the
5 supporting structure, including section 550(f), the
6 outcome that requires the avoidance of the transfer
7 against the initial transferee as a precursor to suing
8 subsequent transferee.

9 Let me address the rationale of the decisions
10 on the other side, and what I believe are their
11 analytical infirmities when measured against the plain
12 meaning of the statute and the analysis that construes
13 the cases as we urge.

14 First, there are a group of cases and the most
15 representative is Erin Food Services, which simply
16 says that in an ipsi dixit fashion that the word
17 avoided means voidable without so much as any
18 analysis. This Court recently addressed the very
19 distinction between the words avoided and avoidable in
20 its March 31, 2006 decision in Enron Corp. v. Avenue
21 Special Situations Fund II, L.P., et al, noting that
22 section 502(d) explicitly referred to a transfer that
23 is avoidable, rather than an avoided transfer, and
24 rejected any argument that 502(d) could not be
25 asserted until an underlying transfer had been avoided

1 given the letter of the statute.

2 We submit that the cases that do not even
3 address the letter of the statute, as Erin Food, but
4 simply misread it to achieve a desired outcome, hardly
5 merit serious consideration, given the express
6 statutory language.

7 Other cases combine a dismissive rejection of
8 the statutory text. Cases like Crafts Plus, Richmond
9 Produce, and Advanced Telecom, simply recognizes that
10 transfers may be avoided only in part and that only
11 the avoided portion of a transfer is recoverable or
12 that the statute contains no language that suggest
13 that recovery from a mediate transferee is in any way
14 dependent upon prior action or recovery against the
15 initial transferee, essentially disregarding the plain
16 meaning or, alternatively, they revert to a further
17 passage of legislative history. That legislative
18 history is, at least on those courts that attempt an
19 analysis of section 55(a), what they all hang their
20 hat on, there is a sentence following the passage that
21 I read earlier, which says the words to the extent
22 that and that lead to this subsection are designed to
23 incorporate the protections of transferees found in 11
24 U.S.C. sections 549(b) and 548(c). In that language,
25 they find some limitation on application or a plain

1 meaning and reading of section 550(a) that permits the
2 notion that an avoidable transfer suffices for
3 purposes of imposing liability on subsequent
4 transferees.

5 That logical leap is, in fact, a complete
6 nonsecretor. Each of 549(b) and 548(c) imposed a
7 limit on the avoidance powers. For example, in
8 548(c), to the extent that a transferee gave value and
9 in good faith, the transfer can't be avoided.

10 JUDGE GONZALEZ: Go back for a moment. If you
11 did not have to avoid it first and it was read as
12 voidable, when under those circumstances would the
13 statute of limitations ever run on recovery?

14 MR. SHIMSHAK: This is precisely the argument
15 that is made under section 550(f), that that
16 construction of the statute, one which said it was
17 avoidable, would render 550(f) superfluous and the
18 existence of 550(f) and the existence of the need to
19 have a transaction avoided and then the statute of
20 limitations commence is further evidence of Congress'
21 interpretation or objective in 550(a). It would have
22 precisely the effect Your Honor indicated rendering
23 550(b) nugatory.

24 But let me go back to this 548(c) argument and
25 our language from the legislative history, the fact

1 that a certain portion of a transaction may be
2 insulated carries with it the converse, that the
3 unprotected portion of the transfer must be avoided
4 before it can be sought from a subsequent transferee.
5 The attempt to use this language to get out from under
6 section 550 is simply unavailing and the decisions
7 that rely on it carry no logical weight.

8 Finally, there is I think at least a bit of
9 intellectual honesty when one finally reaches the
10 level of the Eleventh Circuit decision in
11 International Administrative Services. There the
12 Court, I think, is straining to produce a
13 result-oriented decision and to undo a scheme in which
14 an individual had arranged a series of transfers to
15 try to move assets farther and farther away from the
16 estate and said, quote, we are mindful that our
17 construction of 550(a) does not embrace us a strict
18 construction, but it went on to say that strict
19 interpretation of the statute would, quote, produce a
20 harsh and inflexible result that runs counterintuitive
21 to the nature of avoidance actions. The Court then
22 went to postulate as a harm a series of transfers
23 would insulate a transferee from liability. This
24 analysis falls apart at several levels.

25 First, the Court offers no explanation for why

1 a result which conforms with the letter of the
2 Bankruptcy Code produces a harsh or inflexible result.
3 One could just as readily argue that the assertion of
4 546(a) statute of limitations eliminating avoidance
5 causes of action for the failure to bring them within
6 the two-year period specified by the statute would
7 produce a harsh and inflexible result and that it
8 would be a better world if avoidance actions could be
9 brought any time, but that is simply not the case.
10 Congress has imposed a structure that imposes time
11 limits and procedures under which avoidance actions
12 should be brought.

13 Second, the parade of horribles concerning a
14 string of subsequent transferees hardly makes sense.
15 Section 550 imposes, after all, strict liability on
16 the initial transferee, and subsequent transferees are
17 only insulated from attack to the extent that they
18 gave value and gave value in good faith. The kind of
19 scheme that the Eleventh Circuit postulated, frankly,
20 would not work in the real world.

21 Finally, Enron argues that it can maintain this
22 cause of action even without a Defendant, even without
23 the initial transferee as a Defendant, because, as
24 Enron says, it can establish the requisite elements of
25 section 548 of the Bankruptcy Code without Holding I

1 LP being a part to this action. This amounts to the
2 contention that no section 548 cause of action needs
3 to be brought at all, and that to recover under
4 section 550 Enron only needs to establish the elements
5 of a fraudulent transfer as an evidentiary fact, not
6 as a cause of action brought against a defendant.

7 How would this work in practice? Without the
8 initial transferee, for example, without a defendant,
9 who would challenge the fraudulent conveyance
10 allegations asserted in section 548? Who would have
11 the ability to assert the protective provisions of
12 section 548(c)? The media transferees? Certainly
13 there are practical and potentially substantive
14 questions about the abilities of these parties, who
15 are liable, after all, only on a separate cause of
16 action under section 550, to determine whether or not
17 the debtor has satisfied the elements of a fraudulent
18 conveyance claim.

19 In the absence of an initial transferee, what
20 would be the result? Would there always be a default
21 in which the fraudulent conveyance claim was
22 established by default for want of a defendant? It
23 seems doubtful that Congress intended such an unequal
24 process. While certainly the result might occur in
25 some circumstances and conceivably even in this

1 circumstance, given that the partnership is a defunct
2 enterprise, it is one thing to have that outcome under
3 the peculiar facts of a particular circumstance and
4 quite another to establish a legal principle that in
5 essence a trustee or debtor-in-possession has the
6 option of proceeding under the statute and the letter
7 of the statute against a defendant or, alternatively,
8 establishing the claim as an evidentiary fact and a
9 cause of action against a subsequent transferee. I
10 submit that such an outcome is wholly inconsistent
11 with section 546(a), section 548, and section 7001 of
12 the Bankruptcy Code, which contemplates an adversary
13 proceeding to avoid a transfer, which means a
14 plaintiff and a defendant.

15 Let's talk, finally, about what really happened
16 here and why Enron did not sue Holding I LP. I kept
17 going over this in my mind as I read the concluding
18 portion of Enron's reply in which they raise the issue
19 of the dissolved entity and the fact that the
20 Defendant doesn't exist. I kept going over it in my
21 mind because of my experience. As the Court knows, in
22 another capacity, my firm represents Citigroup in the
23 Mega Complaint. In the Mega Complaint Enron has
24 scrupulously named every defendant and every initial
25 transferee in every transaction, including entities

1 that were subject to Enron's control. In the first
2 cause of action in this very complaint, Enron brought
3 a 548 cause of action against the initial transferee.

4 So what was special about this circumstance?
5 Why was Holding I LP left out? So I went back to the
6 docket in this case and the reason became apparent.
7 Enron did not name Holding I LP, because a week before
8 the filing of the adversary proceeding on November 14,
9 2003, Enron filed a motion in this Court seeking
10 authority under section C-363 of the Bankruptcy Code
11 to dissolve Holding I LP in connection with the
12 disposition of certain assets. So at the time that
13 Enron filed the Complaint, it knew that this entity
14 that was the proper defendant to the adversary
15 proceeding was going to be the subject of dissolution
16 procedures.

17 This Court approved the sale of a participation
18 interest of certain other assets to Special Situations
19 Investing Group on December 18, 2003, two weeks after
20 the statutory deadline for filing a claim against
21 Holding I LP as initial transferee. Paragraph 8 of
22 the sale order authorized the dissolution of Holding I
23 LP, and some two weeks later Enron filed in Delaware a
24 certificate of cancellation which terminated the
25 existence of the partnership. I should add that

1 cancellation, which does have the effect of
2 terminating the existence of the entity, did not even
3 appear to be a requirement of the order which only
4 directed dissolution; and under Delaware law, as in
5 most jurisdictions, a limited partnership in
6 dissolution goes into a winding-up phase, a period in
7 which it can continue to sue and to be sued. For Your
8 Honor's benefit, I cite you to chapter 17/803 of the
9 Delaware statutes, which specifies the procedures and
10 the powers of an entity in dissolution. Cancellation,
11 not dissolution, terminates the partnership's
12 existence.

13 Thus, Enron could have complied with paragraph
14 8 of the order without cancelling the limited
15 partnership's existence and without eliminating the
16 limited partnership as the Defendant for 548 purposes.
17 Though certainly, I would add, the absence of a
18 pending claim against a partnership in dissolution
19 must have had the effect of easing the fiduciary
20 burden of whoever was in charge of the dissolution of
21 that partnership, because a provision must be made for
22 all claims in a partnership in dissolution and the
23 absence of the claim seemingly eliminated that burden.

24 These facts regarding the dissolution of the
25 partnership are all derived from documents on file

1 with this Court or otherwise publicly available. What
2 is their significance? They make clear that the
3 decision not to pursue Holding I LP under section 548
4 was a conscious one, one made through the exercise of
5 Enron's business judgment and not the result of
6 inadvertence, excusable neglect, or hardship. While
7 we believe that section 550 and its relationship to
8 548 and 546 are clear on their face, no justification
9 here exists for any equitable exception or loss on the
10 statute under these facts.

11 For all of these reasons, Your Honor, we
12 believe that count II of the Complaint should be
13 dismissed as to CDP, and we ask this Court to enter an
14 order accordingly.

15 JUDGE GONZALEZ: Is there anyone else in
16 support of the motions to dismiss?

17 MR. KEYES: Yes, Your Honor. Andrew Keyes on
18 behalf of the Defendant National Australia Bank.

19 I would simply echo the argument of
20 Mr. Shimshak on behalf of the other Defendant that has
21 made the same motion to dismiss, and I would reserve
22 my right to respond to Mr. Magaliff in rebuttal.

23 JUDGE GONZALEZ: All right. Thank you.

24 The Debtor.

25 MR. MAGALIFF: Good morning, Judge. Howard

1 Magaliff from Togut, Segal & Segal on behalf of Enron.

2 You may recall that we were here about
3 two weeks ago on another series of motions to dismiss
4 brought in this same case on Monday, April 10th, by a
5 number of other Defendants on slightly different
6 theories.

7 The chart that Mr. Shimshak handed up is
8 actually very helpful, because what it shows is that
9 at the end of the day this is simply another one of
10 Enron's very, very convoluted deals. All of the
11 entities were Enron entities. We know what was done.
12 We don't know why it was done, but we do know that all
13 of these various entities were simply pass-through
14 entities to get the money from one place to another,
15 namely the Defendants in these actions.

16 To address a question that you raised in
17 Mr. Shimshak's presentation about the interplay of the
18 various statutes of limitations, I don't believe that
19 the 550(f) statute of limitations and the 546(a)
20 statute of limitations are in any way inconsistent,
21 nor is it necessary, as practice has demonstrated time
22 and again, that you first bring an adversary
23 proceeding to avoid a transfer and then once a
24 judgment has been rendered, bring a second adversary
25 proceeding against immediate or mediate transferee to

1 recover.

2 As an example analytically, if you are in the
3 middle of discovery in a 548 fraudulent conveyance
4 action and you learn about another transferee that you
5 didn't know at the time that you brought the action,
6 it is entirely appropriate to complete the first
7 action, obtain a judgment, and then commence another
8 action under 550 against the new transferee that you
9 had discovered. But there are scores and scores of
10 cases, Your Honor, where Plaintiffs, including Enron,
11 seek to both avoid the transfer and recover from
12 initial and subsequent transferees.

13 The commercial paper case is a perfect example.
14 We sued almost 200 different Defendants, most of whom
15 have asserted that they were subsequent transferees,
16 or conduits, or had good faith defenses, or whatever,
17 and there has been no serious suggestion that we
18 bifurcate those actions to sue only the three dealers,
19 obtain judgments against them as initial transferees,
20 and then bring separate actions.

21 I think what 550 does is provide an outside
22 limitation in the event that you seek to bring two
23 actions. It doesn't mandate it, and I think that they
24 are entirely consistent.

25 JUDGE GONZALEZ: In the commercial paper are

1 there any of these Defendants that you refer to
2 recipients of payments from an entity that you also
3 didn't bring the action against?

4 MR. MAGALIFF: Not to my knowledge.

5 Ultimately, Judge, as Mr. Shimshak has pointed out,
6 what these particular motions to dismiss turn on is
7 the distinction between avoided and avoidable as used
8 in section 548. The briefing is very comprehensive.
9 Mr. Shimshak gave a very comprehensive presentation,
10 and I think for the most part has fairly extracted
11 from the pleadings the positions of Enron and the
12 positions of the Defendants.

13 Whether or not you ultimately decide to follow
14 the decisions in Slack-Horner and Trans-End or the
15 equally well reasoned decisions in International
16 Administrative Services, Advanced Telecomm, Richmond
17 Produce, and a number of the other decisions, such as
18 National Audit Defense Network, Imperial Corporation
19 of America v. Durkin -- I have citations, if you would
20 like them -- we do agree that it is necessary to
21 establish that you have an avoidable transfer. We
22 pled that in the complaint in paragraphs 47, 49, and
23 51 through 54. We pled all of the elements that are
24 necessary to establish that the transfer to Holding I
25 LP was constructively fraudulent.

1 Mr. Shimshak has analogized this case to the
2 hundreds of transfers in International Administrative
3 Services seeking to draw a difference, but I would
4 submit, Your Honor, that even though there were not
5 hundreds of transfers among 23 different entities,
6 when you look at this very graphic chart in particular
7 that Mr. Shimshak has handed up, what you see are
8 Enron entities all over the page and a flow of funds
9 from entity through entity.

10 I think that the decisions of the Court in
11 Richmond Produce and Advanced Telecomm and the cases
12 that Enron has cited to support the construction of
13 the statute that avoidable is more in line with the
14 policy of the Bankruptcy Code, rather than the more
15 restrictive reading of avoided, I think there is ample
16 authority for you to conclude that under these
17 particular circumstances in this particular fact
18 pattern it would not have been necessary for Enron to
19 sue its wholly-owned entity for the sole purpose of
20 being able to consent to the entry of a judgment that
21 the initial transfer was constructively fraudulent as
22 a precursor to suing the entities that got the money.

23 JUDGE GONZALEZ: With respect to the entities
24 that you say got the money, what benefit did Holding 1
25 LP receive when the monies flowed to the Defendants

1 before me today?

2 MR. MAGALIFF: To my knowledge, Your Honor,
3 absolutely nothing. All the information that we have
4 been able to obtain to date -- and there has been no
5 discovery, by the way, with the Defendants, this is
6 all information that we have developed from Enron's
7 records in such condition as they exist -- that
8 Holding I LP was set up simply as a vehicle in which
9 to park the CLO assets. I can't tell you why the
10 assets were not put directly into the Trust. This
11 goes back to my initial comment that we don't know why
12 it was structured like this, but economically the
13 Trust was the limited partner of Holding I LP and had
14 all the economic interest, which is why all of the
15 money that came into Holding I LP immediately went out
16 to the Trust and thence to the Defendants in this
17 action. We can trace the dollars in and the dollars
18 out.

19 I am fairly certain and, in fact, almost
20 positive, that should we go to trial on this, we will
21 be able to demonstrate that Holding I LP retained no
22 money for itself because there was no reason for it to
23 retain money. It had no interest other than as a
24 vehicle to hold the portfolio assets.

25 JUDGE GONZALEZ: All right. Thank you.

1 MR. MAGALIFF: If you have no further
2 questions, Your Honor, I believe that I am finished
3 with my presentation.

4 MS. SHIMSHAK: I have a few brief remarks in
5 response.

6 JUDGE GONZALEZ: All right. Go ahead.

7 MR. SHIMSHAK: First of all, Mr. Magaliff
8 recited that in a myriad of instances the avoidance
9 actions and the 550 actions are brought in a single
10 proceeding, rather in two separate proceedings. I
11 certainly don't want to get metaphysical, but the
12 distinguishing feature between the circumstance that
13 he described and this case is that in those cases
14 there is an avoidance action against the initial
15 transferee as well as a cause of action under 550
16 stated against subsequent transferees. That
17 possibility will never arise here, because the
18 Defendant by the very terms of Complaint, the
19 recipient of the 548 fraudulent conveyance is not a
20 party to this accident.

21 Second, Mr. Magaliff argued that these were all
22 pass-through structures and that money flowed to the
23 ultimate noteholders, but, again, there is no argument
24 that these entities are in essence the initial
25 transferees. Quite the contrary. The allegations of

1 the Complaint accept the structure and accept the
2 separateness of all of these entities and identify the
3 ultimate recipients as subsequent transferees.

4 Third, Mr. Magaliff postulates that what would
5 have been the point; Holding I LP would have simply
6 caused the entry of a judgment for fraudulent
7 conveyance anyway. This has been a dimension of the
8 Complaint, which I haven't touched upon and about
9 Enron conduct here, but I say in response to that, not
10 so fast. Holding GP, the Enron creature that was
11 acting as the general partnership of that partnership,
12 owed a fiduciary duty to the limited partnership to
13 CLO Trust and ultimately to the beneficiaries of the
14 of the notes issued by CLO Trust. CLO Trust was the
15 limited partner.

16 I wonder whether Enron, frankly, in the
17 discharge of its fiduciary duty could simply concede
18 that a fraudulent conveyance had taken place. That is
19 one of the difficulties here without having a
20 defendant or any provision for a defendant to
21 safeguard the interests of the limited partner and
22 interests of the partnership in the fraudulent
23 conveyance claim that is alleged.

24 So I say it is by no means a foregone
25 conclusion that there would have been a mechanical

1 default or a confession to a default judgment, not if
2 those entities that were involved are discharging
3 their fiduciary responsibilities.

4 JUDGE GONZALEZ: Is there anyone else?

5 (Whereupon, no response was heard.)

6 JUDGE GONZALEZ: All right. Thank you. I do
7 want to ask one question that I think is obvious, but
8 I will ask it anyway and I will ask for a response.

9 Mr. Magaliff referenced a motion that was heard
10 a few weeks ago. If that motion that was heard a few
11 weeks ago were granted, I presume that there is no
12 reason to reach any of the issues in this case?

13 MR. SHIMSHAK: I am not familiar with that
14 motion, Your Honor, quite frankly. We weren't covered
15 by it.

16 JUDGE GONZALEZ: It is the safe harbor 546
17 issue with respect to the Defendants being the various
18 transferees, but if the motions were granted, I
19 presume for Holding I LP the argument would be, even
20 if it then were named, it would have the safe harbor
21 defense?

22 MR. SHIMSHAK: Your Honor, I would say this,
23 not being familiar with it --

24 JUDGE GONZALEZ: I will ask Mr. Magaliff,
25 because I think he is familiar with it: what would

1 then be the Plaintiff's position, if that motion were
2 granted?

3 MR. MAGALIFF: I think, Your Honor, if that
4 motion were granted, it would not affect these
5 Defendants and I will tell you why. The issue that
6 was raised by that group of Defendants was that Enron,
7 in essence, repurchased notes, which, as you are very
8 well aware, is at the heart of the whole 546
9 settlement payment safe harbor defense that we have
10 argued in a number of cases. They were saying that it
11 was the completion of a securities transaction or
12 settlement, if you will.

13 We didn't sue National Australia Bank and CDP
14 on the basis of buying back notes. These were
15 straight, fraudulent transfers. It was a fraudulent
16 transfer to Holding I LP, because Enron received no
17 consideration for the granting of put.

18 JUDGE GONZALEZ: You have jumped ahead of what
19 I was focused on. Would Holding LP in the context of
20 an avoidance action brought against Holding I LP been
21 able to raise the 546(e) safe harbor, obviously, as a
22 defense?

23 MR. MAGALIFF: No. There was no securities
24 type of transaction that occurred, to our knowledge,
25 between Enron Corp. and Holding I LP. It was simply

1 the grant of a Put Option in return for no
2 consideration. Then Holding I calling the put and
3 Enron transferring \$63-some-odd million to the
4 partnership.

5 If you have no further questions, Your Honor,
6 we appreciate the time.

7 JUDGE GONZALEZ: All right. Thank you.

8 The next matter is a decision to be rendered at
9 11:00. I think it is more likely that I will return
10 to the bench at approximately 11:15. So with respect
11 to that matter, if the calendar is correct that I am
12 looking at, it would be the GE Capital matter.

13 Give your appearances and I expect that I
14 should return to the bench no sooner than 11:15.

15 (Whereupon, from 11:02 a.m. to 11:16 a.m. a
16 recess was taken.)

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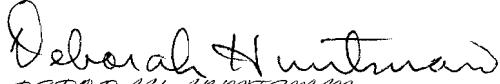
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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 STATE OF NEW YORK)
3 COUNTY OF NEW YORK) : SS:4
5 I, DEBORAH HUNTSMAN, a Shorthand Reporter
6 and Notary Public within and for the State of New
7 York, do hereby certify:8 That the within is a true and accurate
9 corrected transcript from the official electronic
10 sound recording of the proceedings held on the 27th
11 day of April, 2006.12 I further certify that I am not related by
13 blood or marriage to any of the parties and that I am
14 not interested in the outcome of this matter.15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
16 hand this 5th day of May, 2006.17
18
19 
20 DEBORAH HUNTSMAN
21 DEBORAH HUNTSMAN

22 PROOFREAD BY HALLIE CANTOR

23 ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT SENT VIA E-MAIL 4/28/2006

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